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Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks Fire Notice

For Immediate Release – May 27, 2013 Krystina Webster (559-565-3703)

Ash Mountain Prescribed Fire Planned in Sequoia National Park

National Park Service fire crews will be working on the Ash Mountain hazard fuel reduction project in Sequoia National Park (between 1,700 and 3,000 feet in elevation) over the next two to three weeks. This project includes mechanical treatments (weed whacking), as well as prescribed fires.

The next stage of burns for this project is scheduled for Wednesday, May 29, weather and air quality conditions permitting. The five additional prescribed fire segments are near the Ash Mountain entrance station and park headquarters.

An additional unit near Hospital Rock Picnic Area may be completed in the upcoming two weeks. Further ignitions will occur when conditions are favorable.

The segments are strategically located near park buildings, residences, and high-use picnic areas. By reducing fuels in these areas, the parks hope to prevent the spread of any accidental fires that might threaten people and structures during hotter, drier conditions.

Each burn segment takes less than a day to finish. In all segments, the ground fuels are grass and scattered brush, which burns quickly and produces smoke for very short periods. However, residents and employees near these areas are recommended to keep their windows closed on ignition days.

-- www.nps.gov/seki/fire/fireinfo/current.htm --